

of Montgomery, Alabama, died on July 5, 2005, in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Bright was assigned to the Army's Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado, and according to initial reports died in action from an improvised explosive device. His survivors include his wife Carolyn, his daughter Shay, his son Scottie, Jr., and his mother Blanche Bright.

Scottie Bright was a proud soldier and eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He was a cheerful man who loved his family, and was known as a loyal and dedicated father and husband. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Staff Sergeant Bright died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING CONSTANT O. MAFFEY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constant O. Maffey, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who is a recent recipient of the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished himself in actual combat in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight". Constant Maffey proved himself more than worthy of this award during World War II in the European Theater.

As a Flight Engineer and Waist Gunner with the Fifteenth Air Force, 465th Bomb Group, 783rd Bomb Squadron in Pantanela, Italy, Technical Sergeant Maffey was "just doing his job" that day in February 1945 when his bravery and quick thinking would come to the rescue of his fellow airmen.

In Lintz, Austria, on February 25, 1945, Technical Sergeant Maffey was aboard a B-24 Heavy Bomber when during take-off the aircraft failed to attain the necessary 70 mph to become airborne. While the pilot of the aircraft instructed the co-pilot to give emergency power to the turbo, Maffey realized that even this would not be enough to propel the plane into the sky. Working quickly, Maffey adjusted each turbo individually to the absolute maximum setting—a procedure not recommended in-flight, but only for maximum power testing on the ground. The aircraft sped over a ditch, passed the end of the runway, tore through a farmer's fence and eventually became airborne. The Air Force recognizes that "with Maffey's technical knowledge of the B-24, quick thinking under stress, and independent

actions prevented a crash with a full load of fuel, eight 500-pound bombs, and saved the lives of all 10 crew members. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Technical Sergeant Maffey reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army Air Corps."

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Maffey is deserving of this award. Like so many from "The Greatest Generation" he views his actions as just "doing his job." His selfless dedication to the mission at hand serves as an example even 60 years later to Americans young and old the values of courage, honor, and sacrifice. His humility and grace towards his honor is a lesson for each of us in the qualities of true leadership.

I offer my heartfelt and grateful congratulations to Mr. Maffey, who after so many years has finally been recognized and honored by his country which he so valiantly served.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Crowley Resolution (H. Res. 343). This resolution recognizes an important first step taken by the State of Kuwait toward giving Kuwaiti women the right to fully participate in politics. On May 16, 2005, the Kuwait parliament amended Article 1 of the Election Law 35 of 1962, providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and run for office in the 2007 elections. This is the first time in the four decades women have had the right to vote in Kuwait.

This first step is in no small measure attributable to the many years of campaigning and legal challenges to the discriminatory electoral law of 1962. In past years, women's rights activists have been turned away by officials from voter registration centers. In June 2000, a number of women filed a complaint against the Minister of the Interior, al-Shikh Mohammad Khaled al-Sabah challenging Kuwaiti election law on the grounds that the law denied women the right to vote. The challenge was heard by the Kuwait Constitutional Court but rejected. A similar challenge was rejected in 2001. Most of these attempts to win the vote for women were blocked by Islamic conservatives.

However, the human rights defenders in Kuwait persisted. According to the BBC News, with this most recent vote, both men and women rallied calling for the parliament to amend the discriminatory law. The BBC reported that while some of the women protestors were covered completely in full-length veils, many were dressed in the pale blue color that symbolizes the struggle of women in Kuwait. The protestors were allowed to watch the historic nine hour parliamentary debate.

In the 1991 Gulf War, the United States sent its young men and women to defend Kuwait when Saddam Hussein invaded. The war was widely declared to be about protecting the

freedom of the Kuwaiti people. Yet fully one-half of those people, the women of Kuwait, were not able to participate in the political process of representative government either as voters or elected representatives. This lack of ability to participate in the political process of a country is not freedom as we in America understand it.

International human rights organization, special committees of the United Nations, the State Department of this country, and the Congress of the United States have long recognized, as does the Crowley Resolution, that the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights. In 1994, Kuwait acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and in 1996 it acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In its concluding remarks on Kuwait's implementation of the UN Women's Convention, the CEDAW committee expressed its concern at Kuwait's failure to ensure that women had, on equal terms with men, the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies. It noted that the lack of political rights of women also has a negative impact on women's enjoyment of other rights protected under the Convention.

CEDAW called on Kuwait to reform its electoral law with adoption of legislation to amend the discriminatory 1962 legislation in order to bring Kuwait Law into compliance with its CEDAW and the ICCPR. With its vote on May 16, 2005, the State of Kuwait has taken action in support of its pledge to CEDAW and the ICCPR. Changing a law to end discrimination is much more important than just signing the agreement to do so.

The status of women in the Gulf States has been an issue of deep concern to me. Women in many Gulf States are treated as second class citizens. In Saudi Arabia for example, women do not have the right to vote, drive or leave their homes without a male relative. Many women in Gulf States are not able to choose their husbands and have few domestic rights. Domestic violence against young wives, some as young as 12, is a serious problem in some Gulf States. When women cannot vote and have no representation, these important issues concerning them are not addressed. As has been pointed out in many reports, if women have the vote and the right to run for office, they will be at the heart of the political decision-making process. Women in politics can consider important measures to protect women from violence, and from the threat of AIDS. In States where there is no representation for women, violence against women is one of the most pervasive of human rights abuses. When there are issues concerning women, the voices of women must be heard. I am heartened by the parliamentary vote taken in the State of Kuwait on May 16, 2005. There is more to be done; Kuwait must take the lead in the Gulf and do more.

I commend the State of Kuwait for acceding to CEDAW. I recommend that Kuwait take the measures CEDAW sets out in its General Recommendation No. 23 on women in political life and ensure "that women understand their right to vote and how to exercise it" and "that barriers to equality are overcome, including those resulting from illiteracy, language, poverty and impediments to women's freedom of movement." Kuwait must work as it did to promote this change in its voting law, to change